

OSWER SUMMER INTERNS – PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS – 2015

1 – Name of Project:

Assisting staff with PCB Cleanup & Disposal

2 – Project Description

Background of Project Area:

EPA's polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) cleanup and disposal program is responsible for implementing the national PCB regulations, which outline requirements for management and disposal of the chemical banned by Congress in the Toxic Substances Control Act. These regulations set requirements for the cleanup and disposal of PCBs, and EPA is responsible for overseeing these actions, often by issuing approvals (permits) to companies wishing to take a cleanup or disposal action. In Headquarters, we work closely with our 10 EPA Regional offices to ensure the program is being implemented consistently across the country. We lead efforts in developing national guidance, policy, and regulations. We also provide technical and regulatory expertise to both the Regions and the regulated community. In addition to national program management, we also issue some PCB approvals for innovative treatment technologies that will be used across the country.

Tasks to Be Completed By The Intern:

The interns will work with PCB staff in HQ and throughout the Regions on a variety of activities and projects in order to learn more about the national PCB cleanup and disposal program, gain a working knowledge of various topics and policies related to PCB cleanup, PCB permitting, treatment technologies, and other topics, and help advance the PCB cleanup and disposal program.

The interns will be assigned tasks or tasks similar to those listed below. The specific tasks will be agreed upon in the first weeks of their internships and will be based on a matching of skill sets and interests.

- Compile PCB treatment technologies EPA has permitted historically and research & evaluate the current state of each technology
- Compile Regional Approvals and assess national consistency
- Build the PCB share point site to house guidance/policy/approval documents
- Create/Complete administrative records both on share drive and in hard copy for Headquarters issued PCB treatment approvals
- Assist HQ/Regions with updating the national PCB website. An important task will be populating a list of existing regulations with links to electronic versions of the regulations
- Assist HQ to plan a PCB National Meeting. This would involve working with HQ and Regions to develop the agenda and coordinating logistics for the meeting.

3 – What skills are needed for this project:

- An interest in environmental issues, both technical and policy
- Strong communication & writing skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a group
- Good research skills
- Working knowledge of Excel

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4 – Is travel or training involved? No